

KING PROROGUES PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION OF THE REIGN OF EDWARD VII.

The "Westminster Gazette" calls it a "million-dollar session, and the "Times" says it was "unproductive—critical phase in country's evolution."

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Aug. 17.—King Edward to-day closed the first Parliamentary session of his reign with the customary speech from the throne, in which he thanked the legislators for their labors. Suitably enough, the royal assent to this address was obtained by telegraph from Homburg, for what is always a formality and was particularly empty to-day.

The King in his speech referred to the leading acts of legislation passed by Parliament and added:

"I thank you for the arrangements you have made for the maintenance of the honor and dignity of the Crown, especially for those which affect the state of comfort of my royal consort. I am gratified to see that you have given effect to the widely expressed desire on the part of my subjects beyond the sea by authorizing me to make such additions to the royal list as may seem to me expedient."

"The nature and extent of the reparation to be given by the Crown for the unexplained outrages committed last year in the subject of the protracted discussion among the Powers. I am glad to be able to inform you that by a general agreement, in which China concurred, the extent of the indemnity and the security for its payment have been determined and the punishment of the most guilty offenders has been insisted upon."

"The progress of my forces in the conquest of the two republics by whom the African colonies have been invaded, has been steady and continuous, and owing to the difficulty of the extent of the country, the length of the military operations has been protracted."

The "Westminster Gazette" refers to the session as "the million-dollar Parliament."

The "Times" in a review of the proceedings of Parliament since last February says:

"It has been a disappointing and unproductive session. It has shown the lack of energy and enthusiasm that might reasonably be looked for after the signal and incontestable party victory."

A similar note of dissatisfaction marks the commentary of the conservative "Saturday Review." It says: "It would be idle to question that the general result of the session has been to deepen the impression of the Government's weakness generally."

This year the House of Commons has been losing its influence, and the country has been losing its confidence in the Government.

It is accepted on all hands that this is so, and the fact has been emphasized by the amount of time devoted to wrangling over procedure in the House of Commons, which was chiefly occasioned by Mr. Hon. Mr. Balfour's wholesale use of closures.

There has practically been no legislation, and there has been no sign of the Government seeking to make any progress in the House of Commons.

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FREE BANANAS OFF BOSTON.

Crew of a Fruit Steamer in Breakers

Boston, Aug. 17.—As the result of the grounding of the iron steamer Eshelwood, on the middle breakers one and a half miles east of Baker's Island, on Thursday, the cottagers on the island as well as the residents of Salem and Beverly have fruit enough on hand to feed a small army.

The Eshelwood left Porto Plata, San Domingo, early on the morning of Aug. 10, having on board 14,000 bunches of bananas.

She made her usual time coming up the coast and was due at Long Wharf on Thursday, where she would have arrived according to schedule but for the fact that she missed her course in the fog.

In much the same manner that the steamer Halifax sailed across the bay and finally found herself several miles to the south of the point she usually travelled, the Eshelwood passed by the entrance of the harbor and proceeded toward the north shore.

The fog was so thick that objects could be seen only at short intervals, and in the meantime the lookouts did not discover the proximity of land until too late to prevent the vessel's grounding in the sea, and in a short time the shores of Baker's and other islands were strewn with red and yellow bananas.

Boys and men from the shore hurriedly gathered up the fruit, and in a short time the shores of Baker's and other islands were strewn with red and yellow bananas.

The cottagers on Baker's Island as well as residents of Marblehead and Beverly, reaped a harvest as the fruit was washed ashore. The bananas as they struck the water took a semi-circular course, caused by the tidal current, and enveloped the island. Many of the bunches floated several miles up the bay.

The Eshelwood was taken in tow by several tugs and arrived in the harbor late Thursday afternoon.

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